

REMARKS

Applicants have carefully reviewed the Office Action dated November 27, 2006. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the following comments.

Specification Objections

The specification has been amended to correct minor informalities objected to by the Examiner as well as to update the status of the patent applications that were incorporated by reference.

Claim Objections

The claims have been amended to correct minor informalities objected to by the Examiner. Claim 26 has been amended for clarity and claim 28 has been canceled. No new matter has been added as a result of these amendments.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowability of claims 1-25 and 27 once minor informalities are corrected. As noted above, this has been done. Consequently, claims 1-25 and 27 are believed to be in condition for allowance. As generic claims are now allowed, consideration of previously withdrawn Species and claims corresponding thereto is respectfully requested.

§112 Rejection

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection of claim 26 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as indefinite. Claim 26 has been amended appropriately, thereby rendering the rejection moot. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

§102 Rejection

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection of claim 28 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by Abrams et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,592,570. Claim 28 has been canceled, thereby rendering the rejection moot. Applicants do not concede the correctness of the rejection. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Conclusion


In view of the amendments and comments presented above, favorable reconsideration in the form of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.. If a phone conference is believed necessary to resolve any outstanding issues with respect to the above discussion, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

PETER SKUJINS et al.

By their attorney,

Date: February 27, 2007



J. Scot Wickhem, Reg. No. 41,376
JSW:KCH

CROMPTON, SEAGER & TUFTE, LLC
1221 Nicollet Avenue, Suite 800
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55403-2420
Telephone: (612) 677-9050
Facsimile: (612) 359-9349